

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 974 - SB 942

February 25, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Reduces, from 30 days to 15 days, the time period prior to an election during which a person may register to vote or alter their voter registration.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures –

\$97,700/FY23-24

\$87,200/FY27-28 and Every Four Years Thereafter

Increase Local Expenditures –

\$292,100/FY23-24*

\$174,400/FY24-25 and Every Two Years Thereafter*

\$87,200/FY25-26 and Every Four Years Thereafter*

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-102(a)(1), the early voting period begins 20 days prior to an election.
- The proposed legislation would extend the voter registration period to 15 days prior to an election, which would result in 5 days of voter registration overlapping with the early voting period.
- In order to process both voter registrations and voters participating in early voting during the five overlapping days, county election commissions will require additional computers and staff.
- Assuming the number of early voting sites remains the same as November 2022, there are 218 early voting sites that will require one additional employee for the five-day period of overlap, who will be paid approximately \$80 per day.
- This will result in an increase in expenditures of \$87,200 (218 sites x 5 days x \$80).
- In years with a Presidential Preference Primary, the state will be responsible for the costs associated with the March election; therefore, in FY23-24 and every four years thereafter, there will be an increase in state expenditures of \$87,200.
- In FY24-25 and every two years thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures of approximately \$174,400 (\$87,200 per election cycle x 2 election cycles) for the August primary and November general elections.
- In FY25-26 and every four years thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures of \$87,200.

- Each early voting site will also require an additional computer in order to process the new registrations, which will result in a one-time increase in local expenditures of \$292,120 (\$1,340 per computer x 218 sites) in FY23-24.
- Voter registration applications will be reprinted to reflect the correct voter registration deadline, which will result in a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$10,500.
- The total increase in state expenditures will be \$97,700 (\$10,500 + \$87,200) in FY23-24, and \$87,200 in FY27-28 and every four years thereafter.
- The total increase in local expenditures will be \$292,120 in FY23-24, \$174,400 in FY24-25 and every two years thereafter, and \$87,200 in FY25-26 and every four years thereafter.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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